

# MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



## SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

February 2014



**Tony LaMorte**

### A message from the President

Greetings:

I hope everyone had a wonderful time over the holidays. Now it is back to our normal routine. The Museum had its best financial year ever in 2013. Income was about \$8358, thanks to a couple of \$500 donations by a faithful member, donations for new chairs for the flag room, members' dues, proceeds from our monthly dinners, and donations from Museum visitors. Our expenses were about \$6486, including insurance, alarm system, operating expenses, and the purchase of the new chairs, allowing us to put close to \$2000 in our savings account for unexpected expenses and hoped for building expansion. In previous years, our income and expenses were fairly closely matched in \$5000 - \$5500 range leaving little or nothing for savings.

We are hopeful that 2014 will be another good year. We are seeing an increase in visitors which makes our volunteers happy. We get lonely on days there are no visitors. During most days in Jan and Feb we had at least two visitors and we had 11 visitors on one day and 14 visitors on another. We are looking forward to a 22 March visit by 12 members of the Nash car club.

Tony

### Welcome Aboard New Members

On 2 January 2014, Roy E Fairfield signed up for an annual membership. Roy is a retired Navy Cook. He resides in Sebring and has volunteered to serve on the Museum's Board of Directors. Roy also volunteered to stand duty in the Museum and is already on the watch bill.

On 18 January 2014, Jack Farmer became an annual member. Jack is a World War II Navy veteran. He is an older brother of Bud Farmer a Museum member who stands duty in the Museum during the Winter Months. Jack resides in Mount of Wilson, VA.

A very hearty welcome aboard to our newest members! A sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support. Without member support, the Museum would not be able to pay its bills and would have to close the doors.

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**Hours of Operation**  
Open: Wednesday through Saturday  
Noon to 4:00 p.m.  
Web site: <http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>

## **Did You Know That**

the USS ESSEX, a 32 gun sailing frigate, became the first U.S. Navy ship to cross the Equator? The ESSEX was launched on 30 Sep 1799 and presented to the U.S. Navy on 17 Dec 1799. On 6 Jan 1800 USS ESSEX departed New York to meet and convoy merchant ships returning from Batavia, Dutch West Indies. On 7 Feb 1800 she crossed the Equator. The USS ESSEX participated in the Quasi-French War, the First Barbary War, and the War of 1812, during which she was captured by the British in March 1814. The Royal Navy renamed her HMS ESSEX and used her as a troop transport and later a prison ship. On 6 June 1837, the British sold HMS ESSEX at public auction for 1,230 pounds.

## **Quotable Quotes**

We the people are rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution. ---Abraham Lincoln

In questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.---Thomas Jefferson

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.---Abraham Lincoln

The accumulation of all power, legislative executive, and judicial in the same hands may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.---James Madison

Disobedience to tyrants is Obedience to God.---Benjamin Franklyn

Freedom is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it every day. And freedom is never more than one generation from extinction .---Ronald Reagan

## **Memoriam**

We are saddened to hear of the passing of our President's mother, and the passing of a long time Museum member.

Tony's mother, Mrs. Emily J. LaMorte passed away on 24 January 2014 in Holmdel, NJ, at the age of 97. Mrs. LaMorte was a frequent visitor to the Museum, attending Museum dinners and Board of Directors meetings when staying with Tony and Mary Anne.

Long time Museum member, Richard "Dick" Gooravin, passed away on 4 February 2014 in Lake Placid, FL. Dick was born in Miami, FL in 1927. After graduating High School, he joined the Navy and later the Coast Guard.

Fair winds and following seas Emily and Dick. Rest in Peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the LaMorte and Gooravin families.



Photo provided by Allie Ryan

### **Military Sea Services Museum Member Leads Flag Day Parade.**

John "Jack" Phillips long time Museum member was the Grand Marshal leading the 61st Flag Day Parade in Three Oaks, Michigan. The Parade held on 16 June 2013 in this small village of about 1700 people is known as the World's Largest Flag Day Parade with 100 plus units participating. Jack had been asked in previous years to lead the Parade, but he was too humble to consider himself worthy of the honor.

Before his death in El Salvador on 16 Feb, Mike Brown, a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran, nominated Jack as a deserving candidate and insisted that a World War II veteran living in Three Oaks should serve as Grand Marshal. Jack Phillips finally agreed. In a note to Museum member Allie Ryan, Jack stated in part that "...I got to be Grand Marshall...because of the information you sent." Jack and Allie were USS TERROR shipmates and remain close friends.

John "Jack" Phillips enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 at 17 years of age. He became a crew member of the World War II mine layer USS TERROR (CM-5) in the Pacific. Jack was aboard on 1 May 1945 when USS TERROR was hit by a Japanese kamikaze plane while anchored in Kerama Retto near Okinawa. The USS TERROR's crew of 481 suffered 41 dead, 7 missing, and 123 wounded. Jack survived the attack, was later transferred from the ship to attend Fleet Service School, and was honorably discharged in 1946.

The Museum's Board of Directors on behalf of all Museum members congratulate Jack on this well-deserved honor.

## Anniversaries

**22 Feb 1732. George Washington born.**

**23 Feb 1795. U.S. Navy Supply Corps established.**

**12 Feb 1809. Abraham Lincoln born.**

**15 Feb 1898. USS MAINE sunk in Havana Harbor.**

**04 Feb 1941. The USO founded..**

**19 Feb 1945. U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima.**

**23 Feb 1945. U.S. Marines take Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.**

**20 Feb 1962. First U.S. orbiting of Earth by John Glenn.**

**23 Feb 1991. Desert Storm Ground War begins.**

**27 Feb 1991. Desert Storm Ground War ends after 100 hours.**

**31 Mar 1854. Commodore Matthew Perry negotiated the Treaty of Kanagawa to open relations with Japan.**

**09 Mar 1862. First battle of ironclads, USS MONITOR verses CSS VIRGINIA.**

**02 Mar 1867. U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps established.**

**03 Mar 1871. U.S. Navy Medical Corps established.**

**03 Mar 1915. U.S. Naval Reserve Force established.**

**03 Mar 1931. "Star-Spangled Banner" made U.S. National Anthem.**

**05 Mar 1942. U.S. Navy Seabees established.**

**11 Mar 1942. General MacArthur left Corregidor for Australia.**

**24 Mar 1942. Admiral Nimitz appointed Commander in Chief of the Pacific Ocean Areas.**

**20 Mar 2003. U.S. begins Operation Iraqi Freedom by launching cruise missiles from Navy ships in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.**